



## California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

# The Informer

## Message from HQ

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CDTF Commander



Second Quarter 2004  
California National Guard  
Counterdrug Task Force

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Counterdrug Headquarters  
Sacramento, CA

### Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

We finished this quarter while I attended the Counterdrug Commander's (CDC) Conference in Chicago. This yearly conference is where National Guard Bureau – Counterdrug Office (NGB-CD) provides us with our following year (FY 05) targeted fund level. Based on that figure, we will be able to field a force of approximately 325 Soldiers and Airmen. There is a proposal to add a supplement to the CD State Plans budget that would put us somewhere between 325 and 350 personnel. The question is, with all our upcoming deployments, can we sustain our task force at that level? The CSM and staff developed a hiring plan that includes temporary backfills. He has outlined it in his column. Please take time to read it and if you have questions, raise them with your NCO support chain.

One bright note from the CDC Conference is the reestablishment of the Counterdrug Advisory Board (CDAB). This is a State Adjutant General Officer advisory board to the Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) – LTG Blum. Also on the board is the Chair from the Counterdrug Advisory Council (CDAC) plus high level representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to name a few. The importance of this board lies in its direct line to the CNGB. Presently The Adjutants General (TAGs) from Florida, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Texas are on the board. We have not had this board for several years and it has hurt us. Why? Because we need a high level board that has the CNGB's ear to fight for our issues, i.e. annual programmed adjustments in our pay and allowances for cost of living, entitlements, pay raises to permit us to stabilize our personnel manning levels, replacement aircraft for the OH-58, and changes to Title 32, section 112

paragraph 502f permitting us to support Homeland Defense missions.

The Counterdrug Training Advisory Council (CTAC) was also reconstituted. This council coordinates CD training courses between the five CD schools across the nation. Our Deputy CDC (DCDC) is our Southwest CTAC Region representative.

The ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) priorities for the states/territories' Counterdrug Programs in FY 05 provide more intelligence analysts and supports public land agencies in their efforts to combat illegal marijuana cultivation and methamphetamine laboratories. The Office of the Secretary of Defense for Counter Narcotics' (OSD-CN) guidance is to shift some intelligence and reconnaissance missions from Joint Task Force-6 (JTF-6) to us. What we don't know yet is whether funding will accompany this guidance.

This means we will be called upon to fly aerial observation and conduct ground surveillance missions for the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, i.e. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and US National Park Service. In the intelligence arena, OSD-CN wants us to employ our analysts at the HIDTAs for information sharing that supports DoD's Counterterrorism and Homeland Defense missions.

We will be developing our response to this guidance in our state plan following

**See "Message" on Page 3**

# CSM's Message



By CSM Hal London  
CDTF Command Sergeant  
Major

As many of you know, some of our former CDTF members are returning from their service to our nation. I know that I speak for the entire CDTF when I say:

## **"Welcome Home Veterans!"**

In this newsletter I would like to highlight the efforts of the CDTF headquarters which have benefited those who have Redeployed from Active Duty (REFRAD) and those who will be deploying in the future.

A huge effort was made in the drafting of the CDTF Vacancy SOP. In this SOP we addressed: the process of our announcements, temporary hires with regard to deployment, seasonal hires, and the process of selection (i.e., boarding procedures). The SOP is a big step towards managing our force. This SOP, in conjunction with the over-grade policy, will assist the command section in trying to manage a very fluid situation. The most significant piece of this SOP is the allowance of temporary hires for the purpose of backfilling Soldiers and Airmen who have been chosen for deployment. This SOP has not been published but will be shortly.

Due to funding issues and mission changes this year (Mission 3D, Cargo Mail and Mission 3A Marijuana Eradication), we have not been able to guarantee all of our returning veterans their original jobs. However, we have established a process for all of our returning veterans to utilize. The team commanders have been sent a letter regarding the following procedures:

### **1. Welcome the Veteran home.**

2. Establish whether the team has a funded position for the individual:

a. If so, start the hiring paperwork as a new employee.

b. If not, refer the individual to the CDTF J-1 section. (At this point the individual will not be returning to the team they left).

3. The J-1 will screen the individual for the prerequisites to be a heavy equipment operator (Army MOS 21E). This includes Army Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores and physical restrictions. These are just a couple of the prerequisites.

4. If the individual chooses not to be considered for TFE, or does not meet the prerequisites, the J-1 staff will look at other team vacancies for availability (only **AFTER** TFE jobs have been offered). **NOTE: This is a "mission first" decision.**

5. If the J-1 still cannot find the individual a position within this Task Force, the J-1 has established contact with the AGR Title 32 Branch of the Joint Forces Headquarters for vacancies.

6. At any point in this process, the individual has the right to apply for any permanent position that the Task Force has vacant. All job vacancies will have the following statement **"This is an announcement giving preference to qualified, current CD members, and prior CD members redeploying from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or Noble Eagle (NOE) who are available to report to the duty station within 30-45 days of the assigned start date established."**

We have been looking at starting another force pool development process for Intelligence Analysts. This process has not been finalized as of this newsletter but will be in the near future.

Whew! I know this is a lot of information to digest but if we can take care of our returning veterans, the brainstorming and stress of this process will all be worth it. This is the first time the CD program has experienced something of this nature. We are breaking new ground and setting the standards. I must say the command teams (1SG/Team Commander) at the team levels are doing a good job of taking care of their assigned personnel.

We have been afforded this opportunity due to current and future mobilizations. Training Year 05 has the CDC and I very nervous as to the force structure that will be left behind after the expected Mobilizations of the 40<sup>th</sup> ID (M) and the 49<sup>th</sup> CSC. We will all be dealing with this situation for several years to come. The global war on terrorism is not going away anytime soon.

Until the next time, take care and God bless.

## **J-4 NOTICE:**

**The CDC takes property accountability seriously.**

**Each Solider/Airman has a certain level of responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of government equipment and property.**

**Reports of Survey processed since January 2004:**

- 19 each (an additional 9 are pending)
- Reports of Survey resulting in a finding of Financial Liability: 10 each
- The Financial Liability of 10 surveys combined total in the amount of \$12,449.01

### **CAN YOU AFFORD TO LOSE IT?**

**Here are some tips to prevent this from happening to you:**

- Maintain accountability for all equipment at all times.
- Report any damage, no matter how minor. Do not pass the buck and make it someone else's problem.

### **IMMEDIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN WHEN GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS DISCOVERED LOST OR DAMAGED:**

- Report it to your supervisor immediately
- Submit an incident report (within 24 hours)
- Collect/submit sworn statements
- Take pictures (when applicable)
- Gather estimates for replacement/repair
- Provide a recommendation of how the incident could be avoided in the future

## “Message” Cont.

input from team commanders and their NCOICs at our FY 04 Horizon I Conference.

At the beginning of this month I attended a National Marijuana Initiative Meeting at the California Border Advisory Group (CBAG) office in San Diego. The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) is tasked with conducting a limited scope pilot project to determine the threat illegal marijuana cultivation poses to public lands. Their focus is on our national forests within California pertaining to the 2004 growing season. They are trying to develop a predictive program that will guide aerial observation missions to the most likely cultivation sites. They will most likely call on us for TCO, TEA, TFA, and THA support to give them an initial picture for their model.

### Within our CDTF:

TSH has transitioned out of the Cargo/Mail mission. Of note is the new mission they picked up supporting the Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC). The JHOC is a multi-agency effort from local, state, and federal levels focused on maritime interdiction of contraband. We will support this effort initially with eight personnel who will man watch stations at the center. Further, I have tasked their commander to expand our Mobile Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) to other agencies.

TFE is no longer working out of Camp Morena. Our goal is to place them in modern commercial facilities closer to the border within the next thirty days. I commend them for their efforts. We are working diligently to increase their boots-on-the-ground strength. We will also put together training to qualify interested Soldiers and Airmen in the overall engineer support effort for Customs and Border Protection.

Our Joint Foreign Language Information Center (JFLIC) is operational at Los Angeles Air Force Base. We will hire another three linguists by the end of FY 04 and five more by the end of FY 05. In working out their TDA, the J-3 will reemploy the TPH designation and relocate it to Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos in FY 05. I support this designation and am happy our operations shop had the foresight to keep this team name alive in our Task Force.

DDR will implement new “Measures of Effectiveness” for FY 05. Eleven states participated in a pilot project to develop these measures during this FY. They have done a remarkable job at putting together measures that the Counterdrug Management Information System (CMIS) can incorporate to provide relevant information on how well the DDR effort is doing. I will send a representative from our DDR team to one of these pilot states to get “briefed up” on these new measures so we will be able to employ them come October 1st.

On the horizon we have several meetings that will affect this Task Force. During the first week in May I will attend a meeting with our Southwestern border states in El Paso to meet with JTF-6. This is a coordination/battle hand-off meeting as JTF-6 will morph into the Joint Interagency Task Force-North (JIATF-N) and concentrate its effort on Homeland Defense missions other than CD. The second week in May has us hosting the CDAC's third quarter meeting at the Naval Air Station (NAS), North Island Coronado. This provides us with the opportunity to showcase our efforts along the border to participating CDCs. Also during that week our DCDC will attend the Operation Alliance “COBIJA” (Native American word for blanket) meeting in a smoky Las Vegas casino (our DCDC loves the smell of smoke – NOT!).

COBIJA is a combined interagency effort to target specific efforts along the border to stem the flow of drugs and foreign illegals.

I had the opportunity to meet with our newly appointed Adjutant General, MG Thomas Eres, along with other Army and Air O-6 Commanders earlier this month. His watchword is **Civility**. It is his first General Order. We may disagree, we may not like particular actions but, we will be civil and respectful of one another when we speak and interact.

He recently reorganized the Joint Staff Division (JSD). This reorganization moved our CDTF from JSD to the Army Division where we fall under the immediate command and control (C<sup>2</sup>) of the 49<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Command (CSC) – commanded by COL (P) Keith Jones. What this means on the Air Guard side I haven't sorted out yet but, we will. Ultimately, I do not believe we will see a significant difference in the way we do business. What can we expect? TAG wants field commanders to be under the C<sup>2</sup> of field commanders hence, we will fall under soon-to-be BG Jones' command along with the Civil Support Teams (9<sup>th</sup> & 95<sup>th</sup> CSTs) and other (not yet defined) units supporting civil authorities.

We will remain the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for the state. As such, we are receiving priority for the fielding of our equipment needs. Additionally, the 49<sup>th</sup> CSC is tasked to develop a TDA for a Military Assistance to Civil Authority (MACA) Brigade to take C<sup>2</sup> of us and the CSTs. This is a developing process. I will keep our Task Force apprised of how we may be affected by these organizational efforts.

We have been looking at moving our CDTF HQs to the former McClellan Air Force Base for some time. It is still unclear if this will happen and also who may move with us. Suffice it to say, in the long run, this move is a good thing. We will be able to establish a much needed Secure Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF) for TPH and the California National Guard (CNG) as a whole. Plus we will have a location that has a decent place for our visiting personnel to stay.

I would like to extend my congratulations to 1SGs Douglas W. and Steve S. They were board selected to be the 1SGs for TSH and this HQs respectively. We will also be announcing TFE's 1SG position as their 1SG is getting ready to retire (he doesn't look like a 20 year guy) at year's end. There may be further openings at the senior NCO level in the future. So, keep your eyes on our announcements. Should you be qualified, I urge you to apply for these openings.

We need to turn our thoughts of well being to MSG Thomas D. who is recovering from a recent surgery. Take some time to wish him well and if you are so inclined send a prayer for his speedy recovery. Also TFE XO's father is suffering from heart problems. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

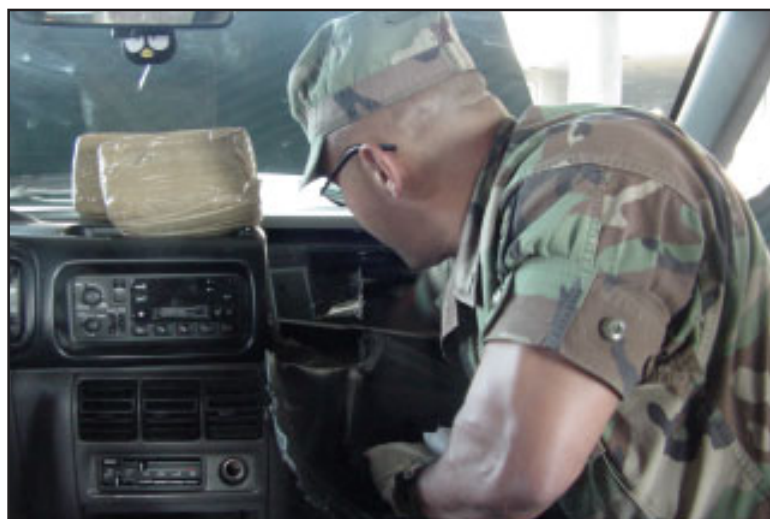
Finally, **WELCOME HOME** to those of you who recently returned to our task force. We missed you and are happy to have you back with us. Rest assured we will keep those who deploy in our thoughts and prayers as we move through our days. Our hope is for your safe return.

To all of you, hold on to the fact that we are a team. We are the largest counterdrug effort in the National Guard. We are an integral part of this nation's Homeland Defense effort. What we do, we do through **COMBINED EFFORT**. Remember **“Courage, Candor, Commitment, and Competence lead to Confidence and Credibility.”** Carry On!



# TSH Cargo/Mail mission

More than a decade of support comes to an end





# Comes To An End





# TWO Assists BNE in Record Bust

Story taken from BNE press release

Photos courtesy of TWO

29 PALMS, SAN BERNADINO COUNTY, Calif. – Senior Special Agent in Charge Douglas Owsley, announced that five people were arrested yesterday on suspicion of drug manufacturing. Methamphetamine, with a potential street value of over \$1,362,000.00, manufacturing equipment, chemicals, as well as explosives, were seized by members of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (L.A. IMPACT), and the Allied Laboratory Enforcement Response Team - North (ALERT-North). Over twenty law enforcement members assisted with service of a search warrant yesterday at a ranch property near 29 Palms in San Bernardino County, Calif.

The arrests and seizures culminate a multi-week investigation of a local drug-manufacturing group. As the investigation increased in size and scope, other law enforcement agencies joined the effort. Agencies included; BNE and ALERT, members from the California National Guard, the San Bernardino Co. Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("I.C.E.").

With little notice, the CDTF was able to support this mission in a true "Combined Effort." A big rig was borrowed from the Air Force to transport the LAV (Light Armored Vehicle), a qualified tractor/trailer driver from TEA, SSG Joe B., volunteered to drive the rig and TWO members, SGT Ron E., Sgt William R., and SFC Kevin M. crewed the LAV.

The LAV crew's mission was to transport the BNE Special Tactics Team as close to the laboratory site as possible. This provided the LEAs an added element of safety in an already dangerous situation. The drop off only took about three minutes, according to SFC Kevin M., but it saved the LEAs more than time; it gave them the added security they needed to accomplish the mission.

Chemicals seized included approximately 40 pounds of pseudoephedrine, flammable and volatile chemicals, and what members of the San Bernardino County Arson & Explosives Unit described as an improvised destructive device. The illicit manufacturing operation was functional and appeared to have been ongoing for several months.

"We will continue to combine resources and work together in our ongoing efforts to eradicate these illicit-drug manufacturing operations" said BNE Senior Special Agent in Charge, Douglas Owsley. "Shutting down an illegal operation of this scope and size required tremendous cooperation and expertise from numerous law enforcement agencies, and they should all be commended." **Well done TWO and TEA!**



# Safety Corner: 101 Days of Summer are here

CW5 Roy L.  
CDTF Safety Officer

1. April has come and gone. Did you change the batteries in you smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors? Does your family know what to do in an emergency? Have you rehearsed your family emergency plans: fire, earthquake, and intruder?

2. We've entered the 101 days of summer (began May 1st). Remember the "101 Days of summer" manual we produced in July 2001. Dust it off, pull it out, and take a look at it. It is a great document for managing risks associated with on and off duty activities. If you cannot find your copy, let the safety office know and we will get you a new one.

3. Some changes in the Safety Office. SSG Adam H. is deployed; SSG Esther M. has resigned to spend more time with her children. SSG Monte N. has successfully competed for and been selected to be one of our two full time Safety NCOs. SMSgt Dan G., North and MSG Deborah P., South, are fulfilling the mission of Safety NCO on an additional duty basis.

4. Accident Review Committees (ARC). The purpose of the ARC is to review selected accidents to determine if they are preventable or not preventable. The results of the ARC will help the individual commander determine what

action he needs to take to correct the behavior of those Soldiers and Airmen involved in preventable accidents. Examples of actions include: Additional training focused around what caused the accident, have the individual do a thorough research into accident prevention and teach it to team members during a safety stand down, and/or a counseling statement that may lead to disciplinary action if the individual is involved in additional preventable accidents within a predetermined time period. If the results of the ARC lead to actions perceived as disciplinary, due process within legal parameters must be complied with as delineated in the CDC's ARC policy memo.

5. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) point count policy. Some teams are now receiving memos advising of personnel with 2 plus points on their DMV print outs. Specific policy is in place and specific requirements must be accomplished by a designated suspense date. The DMV point count policy has been enacted to inform commanders of those personnel who are "high risk" drivers, and if you do a correlation, perhaps "high risk" individuals. Some individuals are not complying with the requirements of the policy within the required suspense date. Some options to insure compliance can be implemented if necessary.

6. Accident statistics as of 20 April 2004: 48 total accidents with a monetary loss of \$29,000, 69 lost work days, and 206 restricted work days.

## Transition Assistance and Job Vacancies

Below are the most recent job vacancies within the Counterdrug Task Force. Soldiers and Airmen returning from deployment have first priority on all vacancies. We will have several Team Commander and Primary/Special Staff backfill announcements out by the middle of May. For more information and the forms needed to apply, please visit the CDTF website at [www.calguard.ca.gov/CDTF](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/CDTF)

| Tour #                   | Open / Close             | Position                                                  | Location     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">CD 03-06</a> | 22 Jul 03 / Until filled | Foreign Language Translator / Transcriber (E-6, CW3, 0-3) | Los Alamitos |
| <a href="#">CD 04-10</a> | 03Mar04 / 31May04        | Enlisted Engineer (E-1 to E-5)                            | San Diego    |
| <a href="#">CD 04-11</a> | 03Mar04 / 31May04        | Enlisted Medic (E-1 to E-5)                               | San Diego    |
| <a href="#">CD 04-13</a> | 07Apr04 / 10May04        | HQ Supply Sergeant (E-2 to E-5)                           | Sacramento   |
| <a href="#">CD 04-14</a> | 16Apr04 / 15May04        | Reconnaissance Specialist (E-1 to E-6)                    | Marysville   |
| <a href="#">CD 04-15</a> | 03May04 / 31May04        | HQ Personnel NCO (E-1 to E-5)                             | Sacramento   |
| <a href="#">CD 04-16</a> | 03May04 / 31May04        | Maintenance NCO (E-5 to E-6)                              | Sacramento   |
| <a href="#">CD 04-17</a> | 04May04 / 04Jun04        | Administrative Specialist (E-1 to E-5)                    | Sacramento   |
| <a href="#">CD 04-17</a> | 04May04 / 07Jun04        | Drug Demand Reduction Commander                           | Sacramento   |

CDC NOTE: This piece on "Attitude" hangs in my office as a reminder to focus on the positive, and to maintain a quality life both personally and professionally. I read it daily. I hope it will inspire you to deal positively with life's trials and tribulations.

# ⌘ ATTITUDE ⌘

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than the past, then education, then money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the Attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our Attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you.

We are in charge of our Attitudes.